

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A method of screening drug candidates, comprising:

- a) providing a B cell that expresses one or more expression profile genes selected from the group consisting of carb an h II, IgD, CD72, SATB1, ApoE, CD83, cyclin D2, Cctq, MEF-2C, TGIF, Aeg-2, lck, E2-20K, pcp-4, kappa V, neurogranin, NAB2, gfi-1 hIP-30, TRAP, bmK, CD36, Evi-2, vimentin, Ly6E.1 and c-fes;
- b) adding a drug candidate to the B cell;
- c) determining the expression level of ~~the one or more~~ at least one gene of
the expression profile genes in the B cell;
- d) comparing the expression level of ~~at least one gene of the one or more the~~
~~at least one expression profile genes gene~~ in the B cell with the expression level of the at least one gene in a control cell not contacted with the drug candidate to determine (i) whether
expression of carb an h II, CD72, SATB1, ApoE, CD83, cyclin D2, Cctq, MEF-2C, TGIF, Aeg-2,
lck, E2-20K, pcp-4, kappa V, neurogranin, NAB2 and/or gfi-1 is increased in the B cell relative
to a control cell not contacted with the drug candidate, or (ii) whether expression of Ly6E.1,
vimentin, hIP-30, TRAP, bmK, CD36, Evi-2 and/or c-fes is decreased in the B cell relative to the
control cell; and
- e) identifying the drug candidate as a potential modulator of B cell tolerance
~~if a difference in expression level is determined in the comparison of step d)~~ the expression level
of a gene listed in (i) is increased and/or the expression level of a gene listed in (ii) is decreased.

26-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising performing a binding assay to determine if the drug candidate identified in step e) binds to the protein encoded by the at least one gene.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising performing an assay to determine if the drug candidate identified in step e) modulates an activity of the protein encoded by the at least one gene.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the expression levels of a plurality of expression profile genes are determined and compared.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the expression levels of at least three expression profile genes are determined and compared.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the expression levels of at least five expression profile genes are determined and compared.

36. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein the drug candidate is identified as a potential modulator of B cell tolerance if the expression level of a gene listed in (i) is increased and the expression level of a gene listed in (ii) is decreased.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the expression level is determined from the amount of transcript expressed by the at least one gene.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the expression level is determined from the amount of protein expressed by the at least one gene.